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PSC RECEIVES ICE STORM ASSESSMENTS

Utility reports available on Commission Web site

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FRANKFORT, KY – Regulated utilities affected by the ice storm of February 15 and 16 have provided the Kentucky Public Service Commission with their reports on how they responded to the emergency. The storm left more than 175,000 customers in central and northeast Kentucky without electricity or phone service for as long as two weeks.

The reports are now available on the PSC Web site at:

http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/hot_list/ice_storm/ice_idx.htm

Local officials and emergency response agencies in the affected areas are being asked to review the reports and submit comments. The PSC will evaluate all the self-assessments and the responses, and also will review calls made to the PSC's Consumer Services Division during the outage. The PSC staff will present its report and any recommendations to the Commission later this year. The report will be made public.

"This appears to have been the most damaging ice storm ever in Kentucky," PSC Executive Director Tom Dorman said. "By looking at the recovery effort – both what went well and problem areas – we hope to learn how better to deal with such events should they occur again."

Utilities submitting information are:

Investor-owned:

- Kentucky Utilities – LG&E Energy
- Kentucky Power – American Electric Power
- Union Light, Heat & Power - Cinergy

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Electric cooperatives:

- Blue Grass
- Clark
- Fleming-Mason
- Grayson
- Inter-County
- Licking Valley
- Nolin
- Owen
- Salt River

Telephone companies:

- Alltel
- BellSouth

Utilities were asked for information on a number of topics, including:

- How initial damage assessment were made
- How repairs were prioritized
- Details on how many workers and pieces of heavy equipment were engaged in restoration efforts and when and how they were deployed
- A timeline of restoration progress
- How restoration was coordinated with contractors, volunteers and government agencies
- Availability of material and supplies
- Description and history of tree-trimming practices
- How calls from customers were handled
- Communication with customers and the news media
- Communication with local and state officials
- Post-restoration cleanup and inspections

The utilities were asked to identify any needed changes in their response procedures and to explain how those changes will be made. Utilities also were asked to identify ways in which the PSC can assist their disaster recovery efforts.

The PSC review does not include municipal utilities, since they are not subject to regulation by the state.

